



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

**GOVERNMENTAL AND
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The Week in Washington D.C. – March 4, 2013

County leaders are in Washington D.C. this week for the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference. This year, NACo leadership and members are rolling out an aggressive ground and digital campaign, *Why Counties Matter*, during the Legislative Conference to demonstrate that the nation's 3,069 county governments provide the essential building blocks to create healthy, vibrant and safe communities. During the conference, leadership and members will meet with key congressional offices to deliver the Why Counties Matter message and offer to work collaboratively with federal partners to meet and exceed the needs of the American people.

Below you will find a listing of federal legislative activities that, in addition to any further discussions surrounding the sequestration, the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of March 4, 2013.

House Floor Action

Monday, March 4, 2013

Legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules:

[HR 307](#) – *Pandemic & All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (Senate amendments)*. The House passed the bill on January 22 and the Senate passed an amended version on February 27. As passed by the House, the measure reauthorized programs through 2017. The Senate amendment extends the duration of program reauthorizations through 2018 and makes a number of technical and clarifying changes. This measure reauthorizes and modifies numerous medical disaster and emergency response programs meant to facilitate the development of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear medical countermeasures. In most cases, the bill's authorization levels are consistent with the existing authorizations. levels). The agreement, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides grants to state and local governments in order to enhance local response infrastructure and better facilitate coordination between federal and local jurisdictions.

House Hearings

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Review the state of the rural economy– Committee on Agriculture| 10 AM EST. View the live webcast [here](#).

Health and Human Services Public Health and Research Organizations – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Oversight hearing| 10 AM EST. View the live webcast [here](#).

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

Freight and Passenger Rail in America's Transportation System |Transportation and Infrastructure – Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. | 11 AM EST. View the live webcast [here](#).

Tax-Related Provisions in the President's Health Care Law – Committee on Ways and Means| 11 AM EST. According to the GAO, the ACA contains 47 tax or tax-related provisions. Estimates by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) confirm that tax increases associated with the law total more than \$1 trillion over the next ten years. Many of these provisions are already in effect, and others will become effective in 2014. Key provisions include: a tax on medical device and drug manufacturers, and health insurers; a tax on individuals and families who do not purchase government-mandated health insurance, a tax on employers that do not offer government-mandated health insurance, additional Medicare taxes and taxes on investment income. In its review of the tax provisions of the President's health care law, the Subcommittee will consider the: (1) status of implementation of key tax provisions; (2) compliance issues associated with the tax provisions and accompanying regulations; and (3) economic effects of the provisions.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Saving Seniors and Our Most Vulnerable Citizens from an Entitlement Crisis – House Committee on Energy and Commerce| Subcommittee on Health| 10:15 AM EST. Background [memo](#). View the live webcast [here](#).

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Unaffordable: Impact of Obamacare on Americans' Health Insurance Premiums– House Committee on Energy and Commerce| Subcommittee on Health 10 AM EST. View the live webcast [here](#).